

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 13-15, 17-19, 23, 24, 27 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ihde (2004/0245232). Claims 9-12, 16, 20-22, 25, 26, 28-30 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ihde (2004/0245232) in view of Martin (4,973,821).

Applicant has amended the specification and amended claims 1-23 and 25-30 in an effort to place the application in allowable form. The amendments to the specification were made to correct several grammatical and formal errors. Paragraphs 0029 to 0031 were deleted since these paragraphs were improperly inserted in the specification by the Patent Office. Applicant filed a Preliminary Amendment on May 24, 2004 to correct several errors in the originally filed specification. The Patent Office did not enter these changes where requested by Applicant, but instead added the changes to the end of the specification. The deletion of paragraphs 0029 to 0031 corrects this error by the Patent Office. Applicant submits that the amendments to the specification do not constitute new matter. Applicant also submits that all the currently pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited art of record.

THE SECTION 103 REJECTIONS

Ihde was cited against several of the originally filed claims based on its teaching regarding a secondary power circuit located in the wire feeder. The amended claims of the present invention are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Ihde. The amended claims are directed to a universal wire feeder that is designed to be connected to different types and brands of arc welders. The wire feeder includes a circuit to detect whether a power source from an arc welder is compatible with the motor of the wire feeder. If the power supply to the wire feeder is compatible, the power source is allowed to power the wire feeder motor. If the power supply is incompatible, the circuit modifies and/or causes the power supplied to the wire feeder to be modified so that the modified power can be used

to properly power the wire feeder motor. This type of circuitry is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Ihde. The wire feeder disclosed in Ihde is connected to a compatible power supply for an arc welder. Ihde merely teaches that if the voltage level from the compatible power source drops too low, the wire feeder includes a secondary circuit to maintain the needed voltage level to run the wire feeder motor. The novel concept of power compatibility detection and power modification are absent from Ihde.

The present invention also includes claims directed to a control signal modifier. Different types and brands of power supplies for arc welders can use different types of signals to control one or more operations of the wire feeder. Several of the pending claims are directed to a control circuit that detects whether a control signal is a compatible or incompatible signal to control the wire feeder. If the control signal is incompatible, the control circuit modifies the control signal to make it a compatible signal so that a control system can be maintained between the power supply and the wire feeder. This novel concept of control signal compatibility detection and control signal modification are also absent from Ihde.

The present invention also includes claims directed to a universal or interchangeable connector for the power cable of the wire feeder. This connector is used to connect the wire feeder to different types and brands of power supplies. Ihde is not directed to a wire feeder that is designed to be connected to incompatible power supplies. As such, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Ihde of the use of a universal or interchangeable connector for the power cable of the wire feeder. This novel concept of using a universal or interchangeable connector for the power cable of the wire feeder is also absent from Ihde.

Martin was cited in combination with Ihde to support a rejection of the original claims directed to a control signal from the power supply to the wire feeder. Like, Ihde, Martin does not disclose, teach or suggest a universal wire feeder that can be connected to different types and brands

of power supplies for arc welders. Martin also does not include any teachings regarding the detection of compatible and incompatible control signals and the modifying of incompatible control signal so that the wire feeder can be properly operated with different types and brands of power supplies. Martin further does not include any teachings regarding the use of universal or interchangeable connectors for the power cable of the wire feeder so that the wire feeder can be connected to types and brands of power supplies. applicant submits that Martin in combination with Idhe does not disclose, teach or suggest the invention defined in any of the currently pending claims.

Applicant submits that all the claims are in allowable form and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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